



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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Partnering for Success

APRIL 2022

Rock River
Hospice & Home
40 Years of Your Side

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game"

Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

Business After Hours



Thursday, April 21st

5:00PM-6:30PM

Rock River Hospice and Home
2706 Ave E, Sterling

Join us for Burgers, Brats, Hot dogs, Nachos,
Peanuts and Cracker Jacks!

Water/Pop for the "Rookies"

Drinks for the "Hall of Famers"



**YOU HAVE GOALS.
WE HAVE OPTIONS.**



SVCC.EDU



April Meetings

- April 7 Executive Board
- April 8 HBLC
- April 11 Golf
- April 12 Board
- April 12 Education
- April 14 Ambassadors
- April 19 Ag

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Directors & Staff

Executive Committee

President: Dr. Jon Mandrell
First Vice President: Pam Fluck
Second Vice President: Tim Determan
Treasurer: Sheila Martinez
Past President: Lance Buser

Term Ends January 31, 2023

Mike Loos, Edward Jones Investments
Sheila Martinez, U.S. Bank
Rick Turnroth, Turnroth Sign Company
Pam Fluck, Sauk Valley Bank

Term Ends January 31, 2024

Dave Knie, Knie Appliance & TV
Tim Determan, Pinney Printing
Steve Munson, Retired, The Medicine Shoppe
Lance Buser, Wal-Mart DC #7024
Ryan Olson, Ward Murray Pace & Johnson
Amy Williamson, Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Term Ends January 31, 2025

Alejandro Rivera, RE/MAX Sauk Valley
Geoff Wright, CGH Medical Center
Josh Johnson, Whiteside Area Career Center
Dr. Jon Mandrell, SVCC
Rebecca Munoz-Ripley, YWCA

Staff

Executive Director—Kris Noble
Marketing Coordinator— Dallas Knack
Financial Specialist/Office Manager—Bailey Dorner

A Message from the Director

This month my comments are about gratitude. Since last Thursday, our SVACC Annual Dinner and Meeting, I have been reflecting on that evening and how grateful I am that we held the event.

I am grateful to the Board of Directors for agreeing to postpone and reschedule the event; rather than cancel or go virtual only. I am grateful to you, our members, for attending. Over 230 of you joined us for an evening of celebration and connections! To the WACC CEO West class; your hard work and ability to connect with a large group of adults is to be commended, you are all truly amazing. I am grateful to those we recognized during the event. To John Byar for 27 years of service the Chamber and the Sauk Valley; Karen Voss who received the Lavonne Colloton Ambassador of the Year Award; and to all of our Ambassadors who continue to give time, energy, and talent to this organization. Lastly, I am grateful to John Berge, the SVACC Chamber Champion, for all that he has done to make the Sauk Valley a better place. I am honored that he has invested in the SVACC, that he believes in the business community, and that he has selflessly given his time and talent to so many people these past years. John is truly a change agent.

A successful chamber can be measured by the commitment, engagement, and support of its members. You, our members, help make this organization and the Sauk Valley truly outstanding. Thank you.

Kris

Investor Update April 2022

NEW INVESTORS

NAMI Sauk Area
Po Box 681, Walnut

Geostar Mechanical Inc
1741 Industrial Dr Unit 21 Box 16 Sterling
815-494-9090

INVESTOR RENEWALS

Altran Magnetics
Bardier & Ramirez Real Estate
Best Cob
Blue Appraisals, Inc.
Bollman Auto Center
Boss Roofing-Siding Experts
Brent's Upholstery &
Auto Accessories
Cassens Drainage
Champ's Banquet Venue
Country Financial
Crescent Electric Supply
Duncan Land and Auction

Exclusive Style and Protection
First Christian Church of Sterling
Fraternal Order of Eagles #2783
Goodwill Industries of Northern IL
Harvest Time Bible Church
In Home Personal Services
Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop
Kiwanis Club of Sterling
Moore Tires, Inc
Morningside of Sterling
N&C Cleaning Service
Planet Fitness
Polo Rehabilitation & Health Care
Regional Media

Rock River Energy Services Co.
Roger A. Colmark CPA PC
Saint Vincent DePaul Society
Showplace Antiques & Treasures
Sterling Hearing Aid Center
Sterling Noon Rotary
The Caring Center
The Spa at Central Park
Twin Cities Sunrise Rotary
Village Profile
Wal-Mart D.C. #7024
Wesley United Methodist Church
Whiteside Area Career Center

We would like to give special recognition to the following groups who provide extra support to the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce. This extra effort and support is truly appreciated. If you have the opportunity to express your sincere appreciation to these members, please do so!

Over \$1000 Invested

CGH Medical Center
Community State Bank
Farmers National Bank - Morrison
Midland States Bank
Sauk Valley Bank
Select Employees Credit Union
Sterling Federal Bank
US Bank
Wahl Clipper Corp.
Wal-Mart DC #7024
Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson

150% Club

Allstate Insurance Agency
Altran Magnetics
Amazing Grace of Sterling
Green Bee Energy Efficiency
Happy Tails Humane Society
Helm Civil
Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.
Illinois American Water
James S Ferris, DDS, PC
Johnson Oil Company
Lance's Plumbing
LK Design Source

Loescher HVAC
Mattox Insurance Agency
Moore Monument & Granite Co
Roy Dern State Farm Insurance
St. Vincent DePaul Society
Sawdust N Dreamz
Select Employees Credit Union
Smoked on 3rd
Sterling Rock Falls Child Care
Sterling Township
The Spa At Central Park
T-Mobile
United Craftsmen, Ltd.

110% Club

1st Gateway Credit Union
Bardier & Ramirez Real Estate
Bollman Auto Center
Candlelight Inn
Cassens Drainage
Central Heating & Cooling
Compeer Financial
Dennis Electric of Tampico, Inc
Farmer's National Bank
Folsom's Bakery
Hawkins-Cassens Insurance, LLC
Imprintable Memories
Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop
Kelly's Restaurant

Kiwanis Club of Sterling
Marv Lofgren & Sons Contractors
Mertes & Mertes
Mike Sprague State Farm
New Millenium Directories
Reitzel Roofing Company
Rock River Lumber & Grain
Rock River Ready Mix
Rosemeyer Management Group
Sauk Valley Food Bank
Scholl Insurance Agency
Sedona Staffing
Servicemaster
Shelly Dambman CPA

Sherwin Williams Company
Showplace Antiques & Treasures
St. Mary's School
St. Vincent DePaul
Stahr Media
Sterling Chevrolet
Sterling Commercial Roofing
Sterling Napa Auto Parts
Sterling Optimist Club
Steve Munson
The Cornerstone Agency, Inc.
Vintage Cousins Emporium
Wendler Engineering Services, Inc.
Willy's Restaurant

Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension
Angie Delhotal— Sauk Valley College Foundation
Brook Burlack – T-Mobile
Cassandra Salmon – Sauk Valley Bank
Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley
Christina Bystry — House in the Country
Janell Loos — Heritage Woods
Jennifer Alvarez — Surf Broadband
Justin Wiggins — Wiggins Computing, LLC
Karen Voss – Morningside of Sterling

Mary White – Community State Bank
Melissa Ryan—Rock River Hospice & Home
Nicole Bollman - CGH Medical Center
Pam Fluck – Sauk Valley Bank
Roy Dern – State Farm
Sheila Martinez – U.S. Bank
Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation
Skip Dettman—LSSI
Tygen Bausman—Sterling Federal Bank

Ambassador Spotlight — Cassandra Salmon, Sauk Valley Bank

Cassandra Salmon works as a Business Services Coordinator for Sauk Valley Bank. She has 11 years of banking experience, starting as a teller in 2012, working in retail, lending, and now business services. Cassandra has been an employee of Sauk Valley Bank for three years, and absolutely loves working for a community bank that really appreciates their employees. She’s always had a passion working with people, which is why being an Ambassador is extremely rewarding. She gets to socialize, while helping her community. She also serves as Board President for the YWCA of the Sauk Valley, and a mentor for the CEO Program.



Ambassador Spotlight — Christina Bystry

Christina is Co-Chair of the Ambassadors and the owner and operator of House in the Country Bed and Breakfast located in Sterling. Opened in 2019, this project is her passion and her creativity shows throughout the house. This beautiful bed and breakfast is located north of Sterling on Hwy 40. Many changes have been made to the property and upcoming changes include the 19th century barn getting a new foundation and floor this spring to preserve the integrity of the structure. Looking forward to restoring some of the grounds to honor the 1938 Governor's Award.



Government Affairs Update

Lunch & Learn: Legislative Updates



from the Illinois Chamber of Commerce
& the US Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Candlelight Inn
2200 1st Ave., Rock Falls



Register online at bit.ly/34SHG6X

The SVACC will be hosting the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Chamber of Commerce for a legislative update on **Tuesday, April 12**. SVACC members and community members are invited to attend.

Andrew Cunningham, Manager of Legislative Relations, Illinois Chamber of Commerce and Ryan Gleason, Manager of Great Lakes Region Office, will share legislative updates on what is happening at state and federal levels. Andrew and Ryan have extensive knowledge about key legislative issues. Area Legislators have also been invited to attend and provide insight from their prospective.

Written by: Grant Koerner—Newman Catholic Central High School



Over the past few weeks in CEO we have had two main focuses:

business pitches for our end of the year trade show and the Chamber

Dinner at the Day's Inn in Rock Falls. Giving the business pitch was so nerve racking for me even though I wasn't asking for money. I always get anxious when something important like this happens and the nerves just fill the body. I love how we are forced to step outside our comfort zone in CEO and receive criticism from people we don't know well, so it feels blunter.

We were also busy with the Sauk Valley Area Chamber annual dinner which had an incredible turnout with many great companies and business leaders from the surrounding area. Our CEO class dressed up like Hollywood super stars and had a wonderful time mingling with our local superstars. Claire Crisham was CEO's project manager of this dinner and did a phenomenal job writing and directing a skit and making sure the room looked fabulous. Our CEO class would like to thank everyone in this community for supporting us and giving us an opportunity high school students don't receive every day.

A recent tour this past month was the Walmart Distribution Center. This was truly an eye-opening experience for me as I pass by this building often and never know what goes on inside. What stuck out to me the most was how much the workers make, but at a cost to their body at the same time, with the work being quite physical. Starting rates around \$19 and some up to \$30 based on what location they are in. It also amazes me that they send out ten's of thousands of shipments EVERY day other than two days a year (Thanksgiving and Christmas). I would never think small town USA could have the manpower or money to not only have two million square feet of warehouse space constantly pumping out groceries 24/7 but also being the 4th largest grossing distribution center in the Walmart company.

Mark your calendars because the trade show is now less than a month away at the Northland Mall. It will kick off Wednesday, April 27 through Thursday the 28th of April. Don't miss out because there will be over 30 creative and unique businesses, ranging from many delicious foods, drinks, clothes, and many household items that everyone needs to get their hands on. This only happens once a year...save the date...April 27-28 at the Northland Mall in Sterling.

Written by: Luke Valentino—Sterling High School

The month of March in CEO has focused on the finalization and perfecting of our individual business plans. At the first thought of creating a business and writing our plans to be reviewed by our bankers, I would say most of our class was nervous and uneasy. As we progressed, we were given vital information and help from a variety of groups and people to guide us. Between our speakers and mentors, we were able to create well-written plans to present in front of the "CEO bankers." This experience was very helpful and less of a degrading time, but rather a time to get advice and help to our specific needs. Through the help of many, we were able to create businesses which have expanded our understanding on starting up a business and how to be successful at it. Look for Luke's Leather at the 9th Annual WACC CEO Trade Show on April 27 and 28 at Northland Mall.

Hop Into Spring Painting Party! Thank you Nancy's Art Studio for sharing your talents with us! Thanks to T-Mobile for your sponsorship and to Wesley United Methodist Church for hosting!



Business After Hours events are back and what a great way to kick off the BAH season. Thank you to all of our members that came out on Thursday, March 17 to Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop. A special thank you to Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop for hosting!

Join us for our next BAH on April 21 at Rock River Hospice & Home.



On March 2nd, the Sauk Valley College Leadership Program began the morning with an eye-opening, powerful Q & A with a panel of leaders in local education: Mimi Hicks, CGH Helping Hands Daycare Director; Matt Birdsley, Director of Curriculum, Sterling Public Schools; Lindsey Stumpfenhorst, Challand Middle School principal; Ron McCord, Superintendent, Rock Falls District 301; and Sarah McFarlane, Program Director of Adult Education, SVCC.



After the panel, Ken Burns, Director of Student Services at the Whiteside Area Career Center, gave us a comprehensive tour of the incredible career and technical programs available to area students.

An impressive lunch was provided by WACC's Culinary Arts students.

March 16 included multiple hands-on activities with the elements of public speaking, facilitated by Kris Noble, Jon Mandrell, and Dallas Knack. Students came to realize that they are more polished, articulate, and eloquent than they ever thought they could be.



A lunch from Arthur's Garden Deli finished the day, delicious, as always.



Congratulations to ServiceMaster for receiving the Customer Service Award!

We are proud to have you as a member. Thank you for providing quality cleaning services to local businesses.
For more information contact 815-625-2511.



CSA Sponsored by:



Annual Dinner and Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Dinner and Meeting on Thursday, March 25 at Days Inn, Rock Falls. It was wonderful to see everyone! We were proud to have the opportunity of partnering with the CEO program on the event. The class did a wonderful job organizing the event and providing entertainment and dessert for our members.

Congratulations to our 2021 award recipients:

- Chamber Champion: John Berge
- Lavonne Colloton Ambassador of the Year: Karen Voss
- Recognition for 10 years of service as an Ambassador: Pam Fluck
- Recognition for Outgoing Board President: Lance Buser

The SVACC would like to thank John and Karen for all of the work they have done, and continue to do, for our community.



WHITESIDE AREA CAREER CENTER
CEO PROGRAM

TRADE SHOW

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

NORTHLAND MALL STERLING

Save the Date!

SVACC 56th Annual Golf Outing
Registration and Sponsorship

Friday, June 10, 2022 | Deer Valley Golf Course

Proceeds are used to fund the Charles Farnham Business Scholarship and chamber operations.
Registration 11:00am Shotgun Start 12:30pm Awards 5:00pm

Presented by:

Faith • Family • Giving Back

MORRISON • OREGON • STERLING

To register, visit bit.ly/3BzrGU0

5 reasons people are changing careers more than ever before

Written by: Peter Lauria, Former Editor in Chief, USChamber.com, USCC

A new U.S. Chamber poll shows 41% of people are looking to switch industries for their next job. But the reasons why they want to change careers aren't what you might expect.

Here are five reasons born from the pandemic but likely to last long after it is gone for why people are looking to switch careers more than ever before:

Aligning Skills to Growth Industries

Not unlike the restaurant manager getting into the insurance industry, many workers in hospitality, traditional retail, and other industries hit hard by the pandemic are intentionally looking for opportunities to transfer skills into growth industries. According to the U.S. Chamber poll, 46% of workers previously employed in the leisure/hospitality industry are looking to switch industries. Pointing to leadership, sales, and communication skills, Broberg, whose organization works with private companies and public institutions to improve the alignment of talent with employer needs, says, "Restaurant managers have a lot of skills that overlap with many insurance industry roles."

College Degree No Longer Required

The need to fill open jobs, combined with the lack of properly skilled talent, has led businesses to move away from a degree-based approach to hiring. Or, as Broberg says, "A bachelor's degree is no longer a minimum requirement to do some jobs anymore." Instead, employers are moving towards a skills-based approach to hiring — indeed, many companies seeking people with technology skills work with talent partners who provide credentialing and upskilling and reskilling to both employees and non-employees alike. The removal of the B.A. barrier opens opportunities for workers, particularly those from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, to switch into industries and roles that were previously closed to them.

The Mainstreaming of Remote Work

It's clear that the move to remote work is not a temporary condition caused by the pandemic but a permanent feature of the new world of work. People aren't likely to relocate for a job anymore, and with the pressure businesses are under to fill open jobs, they aren't likely to request that candidates move as a condition of employment either. Together, those two dynamics mean that employers have a much wider canvas for recruiting, and workers have a much bigger palette of companies to which they can apply.

Wanting to Make a Difference

Forty-one percent of respondents to the U.S. Chamber COVID-19 unemployed poll said a positive work environment would increase their urgency to return to work, while another 31% said they would go back to work if they found a career that offers them a chance to make a difference. Those statistics underscore a trend among workers, particularly millennials and Gen Z, to seek out businesses and jobs that align with their values. And while that trend began well before the COVID-19, the pandemic's devastating financial and social impacts certainly accelerated the desire among a vast cohort of workers to seek out businesses with inclusive cultures and jobs that positively contribute to society, says Broberg.

Transitioning Out of High-Contact Jobs

The financial damage wrought by the pandemic can be quantified, but the mental and emotional toll cannot. There is still a very real fear factor for workers on the frontlines — from nurses and other healthcare professionals to restaurant and retail workers — whose jobs involve high-contact interactions with other people. Burnout, anxiety, and other mental health issues are prompting these workers to switch industries. A recent survey of critical care nurses found that 66% have considered leaving their jobs because of the pandemic, citing fear of exposing themselves or their families to COVID-19 as the main reason. "Many industries require people to be on the ground doing work with other people," says Broberg. "There is certainly still some degree of fear factor today, the question is whether that fear will continue and if so to what degree. We can't say with confidence that people will forget this quickly."

The convergence of these challenges means that employers that are strategically investing in and prioritizing their talent will come out ahead. This means leveraging the skillset that talent brings from other industries and, in some cases, collaborating across industries to demonstrate how jobs from one industry to another can be linked.





Find Your Flow

Part 2: Managing Stress & Building Resilience

presented by: Natalie Moeller,
Moeller, Myers & Associates

Natalie Moeller, MSW, LCSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has counseled children, adolescents and adults for over 25 years

In today's overwhelming environment, it is more important than ever to develop emotional resilience. With constant device usage, adults, teens, and kids face a never-ending news cycle and pressures from social media. Add any medical condition and traumatic life event, the need to develop life skills that exercise emotional resilience become vital.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

11:45 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

STERLING FEDERAL BANK

110 E. 4TH ST., STERLING

\$20 MEMBERS

\$25 NON-MEMBERS

LUNCH FROM ANGELO'S INCLUDED

REGISTER BY APRIL 6

AT SAUKVALLEYAREACHAMBER.COM

OR CALL 815-625-2400





Ride For Rock River INAUGURAL BIKE-A-THON



Ride between July 23rd - July 31st
Registrations due by July 8th for t-shirt order

"Your Own Ride" Your Own Location & Your Own Time

Family Rides, Group Rides, Individual Rides, Registration Fee, or Obtain Pledges per mile

Family Registration: (up to 5) \$75 or with Pledges \$50

Individual Registration: \$25 or with Pledges \$10



Includes t-shirt and prizes for Top Pledges
Sponsorship Opportunities are Available



I want to join & support Hospice and Ride for Rock River

Family/Individual Name: _____

Shirt Size(s) and Quantities: YS _____ YM _____ YL _____ AS _____ AM _____ AL _____ AXL _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Payment: Check Enclosed Credit Pledge Sheet

Type of Card:

MasterCard Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____ CVV: _____
 Visa
 Discover

Authorized Signature: _____

For registration or sponsorship information:

Call Rock River Hospice and Home
at 815-625-3858, visit www.hospicerockriver.org
or email Melissa at melissa@hospicerockriver.org



Cybersecurity: Building a More Resilient Enterprise



Wednesday, May 4

10 a.m.

Virtual

Free to attend – registration required by 5/2



Presented by:



Chris Janke is a senior manager at Wipfli with over 25 years of experience in providing technology consulting services. He helps organizations implement and utilize technology to achieve organizational goals.



Tom Wojcinski is a director in Wipfli's cybersecurity and technology management practice. He specializes in helping organizations reduce and manage the risks that modern technology and information systems introduce to their organization.



register online at
saukvalleyareachamber.com

